

# Abbeville Press and Banner

Established 1844. \$2.00 the Year. Tri-Weekly.

Abbeville, S. C., Friday, April 22, 1921

Single Copies, Five Cents.

77th Year.

## HARDING DECLINES REQUEST OF HUNS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES NOT TO MEDIATE.—MAY TAKE SOME PART IN NEGOTIATIONS.—SECRETARY OF STATE HUGHES MAKES A STATEMENT.

Washington, April 21.—The American government refused today an urgent request of the German government that President Harding mediate the question of reparations between Germany and the allies and fix the sum Germany is to pay.

The United States agreed, however, that if the German government would formulate promptly such proposals regarding reparations "as would present a proper basis for discussion" it would "consider bringing the matter to the attention of the allied governments in a manner acceptable to them in order that negotiations may speedily be resumed."

Germany's appeal signed by Chancellor Fehrenbach and Foreign Minister Simons, was directed to President Harding and was transmitted through American Commissioner Dressel at Berlin. It was answered by Secretary Hughes after a conference late today with the president at the White House. The text of both the appeal and the reply were made public tonight by the state department. The communication from Berlin said the German government was "ready and willing" to agree "without qualification or reservation" to pay such sum as the president, after examination and investigation might "find just and right" and to fulfil in letter and spirit all the provisions of any award that may be made by him.

In reply Secretary Hughes said: "This government could not agree to mediate the question of reparations with a view to acting as umpire in its settlement. Impressed however, with the seriousness of the issues involved as they affect the whole world, the government of the United States, feels itself to be deeply concerned with the question of obtaining an early and just solution. This government strongly desires that there should be an immediate resumption of negotiations and reiterates its earnest hope that the German government will promptly formulate such proposals as would present a proper basis for discussion. Should the German government take this course, this government will consider bringing the matter to the attention of the allied governments in a manner acceptable to them in order that negotiations may speedily be resumed."

Germany's appeal was regarded in official and diplomatic Washington as a remarkable one. It was pointed out that it was directed to the head of a nation with which Germany still is technically at war and which has troops on its soil. Reference to the state of war was made in the German communication the chancellor and foreign minister declaring that notwithstanding this they petitioned the president "in the name of the German government and the German people" with "the confident hope" that the appeal would be granted.

This was the second communication dealing with reparations addressed to the United States by the German government and apparently it was not unexpected by administration officials as the reply went forward a few hours after its receipt at the state department. The German memorandum was handed to Commissioner Dressel yesterday and reached Washington today. Secretary Hughes considered it and late in the day conferred with the president at the White House. His visit was brief and soon after his return to the department word came that the texts of both the German note and the American reply would be made public within a few hours.

Germany has until May 1 to meet

## CAN'T DEPORT ANY MORE RUSSIANS IF SOVIET OPPOSES

U. S. Must Submit List For Approval of Moscow—Are Giving Trouble.

Riga, Latvia, April 21.—The United States no longer will be able to deport its undesirable or send its willing Russian residents to Soviet Russia, without previous negotiations and the consent of the Soviet government in each individual case, under the provisions of a Soviet decision made public today through a note to the Latvian government.

The note says that effective today, the Soviet authorities will not honor any transit visas granted by Latvian representatives abroad for emigrant or deportees bound for Russia unless they also have Russian visas.

The Latvian government has notified its consul in New York to abide by this ruling and similar instructions have been sent to England. For a long time past Russia has admitted without Soviet visas, deportees and other from the United States after questioning them at neutral ports of debarkation. The effect of the new ruling, so far as the United States is concerned, will be the prevention of further deportations from that country to Soviet Russia unless a list of those deported has been submitted officially to the Soviet government and the latter's permission for the entry of such deportees into Russia gained.

During the last few months Americanized Russians among the emigrants and deportees entering Russia have caused much difficulty there and in many instances are said to foreign leading factors, in revolts. In addition, many of them have been anarchists whom the Soviet authorities also are unwilling to admit.

The demands of the allies that the first installment in cash on the reparations bill be paid. Premiers Lloyd George and Briand of France are to meet Sunday in England to discuss measures to be taken if Germany fails to meet the allied demands. It has been reported that France would insist on the occupation of additional German territories and other penalties in the event of failure to comply. What steps Germany has taken to meet the allied demand or to what extent new proposals regarding reparations have been prepared are not known here. From the urgent nature of the German appeal, it was the belief of some officials and diplomats that the Berlin government found itself in an extreme position.

The German appeal received today and Mr. Hughes' reply were made public by the state department without comment and high administration officers declined to discuss either of them.

## CORP. DIGBY BROUGHT HOME

Many of the young men who lost their lives in France are being brought home for final burial. Abbeville people are interested in the return of the body of Corporal Ernest Digby to his home in Newberry. Corporal Digby was one of the young men who guarded the shops at Abbeville and the trestle at Watts at the beginning of the war and he is well remembered by many of our people.

The young man joined the 118th Infantry and was killed in the fighting on October 20 1918.

The body of Corporal Digby was brought to Newberry and buried with military honors Sunday afternoon, a large concourse of people attesting their admiration for his bravery and their sympathy for his people.

## EDITOR "THE ORION"

Miss Gwen Bristow has been honored by the students and faculty of Anderson College by being elected editor-in-chief of the college magazine, "The Orion" for the next session. This is quite a distinction to Miss Bristow who is now a first-year student, the position always heretofore having been given to a senior.

## 26,000 PERSONS ARE FACING STARVATION NEAR BIRMINGHAM

Strike in Coal Fields Is Having Disastrous Effect—Appeal for Aid Made to Government

Birmingham, Ala., April 21.—Twenty-six thousand persons are at the point of starvation in the coal fields of Northern Alabama, Governor Thomas E. Kilby was told today in an appeal by the Salvation Army, southeastern division, with headquarters here.

The organization stated to the governor that it was helping to the limit of its resources but that additional aid must come from other sources.

Clubs and civic bodies of Birmingham made appeals for help on behalf of the miners and their families many of whom are described as hungry and almost naked.

A Birmingham newspaper also appealed for funds "to aid the thousands of men, women and children who are in want."

## Appeal to Governor

Pratt City, local United Mine Workers of America, made formal demand upon Governor Kilby either for re-employment in the mines or for financial relief. The statement of the governor says that "3,400 souls of our local alone, are in dire circumstances," and adds, "we have applied for re-employment and have been flatly turned down."

Continuing, the Pratt City local says, "we make this appeal to you because the settlement of the strike was placed in your hands."

The local union at Marvel also appealed to the governor for help for 634 destitute men, women and children.

This local says in a statement to Governor Kilby that "our local has received circular letters from the operators that they will not re-employ any member of the union."

## THE CHURCH AT McCORMICK

Rev. M. R. Plaxco spent Wednesday in McCormick. He went down to see the new Seceder church in that town. Mr. Plaxco is on the building committee and he is pleased with the handsome structure erected in McCormick. The church is brick of rough finish, grey in color and will seat about three hundred people. It is modern in its appointments, has basement of individual Sabbath school rooms and Rev. R. F. Bradley has organized the congregation of their ten charter members. Rev. L. T. Pressly is the pastor and is filling the needs of his people.

## A SUMTER VISITOR.

Miss Esther Clarke of Sumter is in the city and will spend a day or two with her relative, Mrs. W. H. White. Miss Clarke has been in Atlanta and is on her way home. She is receiving a warm welcome from those who have met here on her other visits to Abbeville.

## HOSPITAL NEWS

Ruth Mundy, the nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Mundy, was operated on for appendicitis at the County Hospital Thursday.

Gilbert Nabers, seeking to conform to society's latest fashion, was operated on at the County Hospital Thursday for tonsillitis.

## HOME AGAIN

Mr. M. T. Coleman is at home for the first time in several weeks and is opening up his house, preparatory to the return of his daughter, Mrs. D. T. Smith and the children. While in Columbia, Hemphill, the Smith baby, has been quite sick and it is hoped the change home will be of benefit to him.

## IN TROY

Mrs. Robert H. Coleman and her children are in Troy and will remain until the close of the school session in Charleston. They are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Kennedy.

## WEEKS ANNOUNCES ORGANIZATION OF FIELD WAR STAFF

Will Be Headed by Gen. Pershing.—Will Be Separate from Regular Chief Staff.

Washington, Apr 21.—Organization of a war staff headed by General Pershing to take charge of field operations of the armies of the United States in time of war was announced today by Secretary Weeks.

"Instant preparation in time of peace for active military operations" was given by the secretary as the reason for the new organization.

The organization, headed by General Pershing, will be entirely separate from the officers of the chief of staff, Mr. Weeks said, which will continue to direct the administration of the military establishment in time of peace. General Pershing will have a skeletonized staff, which will correspond to that at Chaumont during the World War, and which will concern itself entirely with problems of strategy, tactics and war organization.

"We are going to have skeletonized general headquarters established in the war department," said Secretary Weeks. "Its purpose will be to keep us instantly prepared for active military operations. The details will be given out later, but General Pershing will be at the head of the activity."

"Details of the plan are difficult to arrange, owing to the working of the laws, but the chief of staff will continue to direct the administration of the army in time of peace."

Before the world war, Secretary Weeks explained, Marshal Joffre had been similarly selected to command the armies of France, if war came, and organized a skeleton staff which was instantly available.

Secretary Weeks would not confirm or deny rumors that Major General James G. Harbord, who was for a time General Pershing's chief of staff in France and later head of the service of supply, had been selected to relieve Major General Payton C. March as chief of staff of the army. It was thought probable by some officers that General Harbord might become General Pershing's chief aide on the war staff.

## NO SITE SELECTED

As yet no site has been selected for the new High School building. The Board met yesterday and considered the bids which were before it. The lot on Chestnut street, the old Gary lot and the Fair Ground lot, were each offered the Board of Trustees at prices which were not given out, and unless other lots are offered one of these will likely be selected.

The petition for an election on issuing bonds has been prepared and in the next few days it will be presented to the free-holders and electors residing in the school district. When enough names have been signed, an election will be ordered.

## CAPT. SHAW HERE.

Capt. W. C. Shaw, of Lowndesville, was in the city today. He called on the force at the Press and Banner office, but the editor was out, and missed seeing him. The Captain was on crutches this trip. Though he fought through the war, and is now past seventy, he still knows how to plow, but these new-fangled plows get away with him sometimes. That is what put him on crutches.

The captain is still in distress about what is to become of the people of the country unless times soon show some improvement. Like a good soldier, though, he is fighting and hoping for a turn in the tide of business.

## MR. HENRY IMPROVES

News from Atlanta is that the condition of Albert Henry continues to grow better. A letter from there today brings the good news that his condition is greatly improved.

## CONSOLIDATION OF SOLDIER AGENCIES IS ORDERED TODAY

Public Health Service Under War Insurance Department For Former Soldiers.

Washington, April 21.—Transfers from the public health service and the consolidation with the bureau of war risk insurance of all work, offices and personnel of the public health service connected with the medical treatment of disabled war veterans was ordered today by Secretary Mellon. An exception is made, however, in the operation of hospitals and dispensaries which will remain under the public health service.

The consolidation ordered was recommended by the president's special committee, of which Chas. G. Dawes of Chicago, was chairman and Mr. Mellon said it was a step toward the consolidation of the government agencies which deal with former service men and women.

The treasury secretary announced that all field offices of the public health service over the country engaged in examining and finding suitable beds for the service men would be taken over by the war risk bureau, as would all contracts with private institutions for the treatment of such men.

"The bureau," he said, "will establish an adequate force of medical inspectors to insure proper and effective treatment of patients in whatever institutions they may be placed."

"The fourteen district supervisors, who have heretofore been a part of the public health service are in conference at the bureau of war risk insurance with the directors and other officers so that the reorganization may be put into active effect throughout the country without delay or complication."

## TO SPEAK AT BAPTIST CHURCH

Hon. Sam Small, the famous orator and evangelist of Georgia, will be the speaker at the patriotic rally in the Baptist church, Monday evening, April 25th at 8:00 o'clock.

The subject of Dr. Small's address will be "The Salvation of Uncle Sam" and a very timely and interesting discussion is anticipated.

For nearly three decades Dr. Small has been one of the prominent figures on the American platform. With Sam Jones, Dr. Small held evangelistic meetings in every section of the country, and the two "Sams" were heard by thousands. His quaint and peculiar way of expressing his thoughts, coupled with the oratory which makes the speakers of the South attractive, has placed Dr. Small as a favorite before the public. He is a man of exceptional attainments and his practical experience as an attorney, journalist, author, soldier minister, evangelist and lecturer, has given him a wealth of material upon which to draw.

Dr. Small is an Emory and Henry College man, and is considered as one of the most noted living graduates of that old Virginia school. Taylor University conferred the Ph. D. upon him and the Ohio Northern University the D. D. He wears the button of a Confederate soldier and the pin of a Spanish war veteran and his three sons were active in service during the great war. But it is his remarkable vitality and his versatile manner both of thinking and of speaking, that draws large audiences wherever he speaks.

The meeting under the direction of the local ministers and auspices of the National Reform Association, the oldest reform organization in the United States, which is sending Dr. Small on a tour of the principal cities of the South in a campaign in behalf of the application of Christian principles to the unsettled problems of the present day.

## UNION SERVICE

The union service of the churches will be held in the A. R. P. church Sabbath evening, at eight o'clock.

## FARMERS DISCUSS SEVERAL SUBJECTS

TARIFF, TAXATION AND AMERICANIZATION TAKEN UP—ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION PLEDGING MORAL SUPPORT FOR POULTRY MEN BRINGS COMPROMISE

Washington, April 21.—Tariff, taxation and Americanization were discussed at today's session of the National Farmers' union, which is meeting here to frame a program of national legislation affecting agricultural interests. A committee recommendation for duties on poultry products precipitated a lively debate between free traders from the South and protectionists from the Northwest, during which the Virginia delegation divided. A compromise was effected by the adoption of a resolution pledging the moral support of the organization for the poultry men.

Former Representative Pollard, Nebraska, while declaring his adhesion to the principle of protection opposed indorsing any specific duties of protection, but favored a tariff which would represent the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad. He said the farmers should be careful in their demands for duty on farm products, as the Republican party, of which he is a member, had used this as a "sop" to the farmers in the past in order to impose high duties on manufactured products.

A report from the committee named to report an estimate of losses sustained recently by farmers was recommended because of opposition to part of finding which some delegates construed to be an indorsement of the Plumb Plan League plan for operation of the railroads. The report was read by S. W. Brookhart of Iowa.

The committee reported the farmers had sustained a loss of \$7,000,000,000 as a result of the "unnecessary profiteering of middle men, arbitrary restriction of credit by federal reserve banks and unreasonable rise in railroad rates all of which have been created by autocratic economic power exercised under unjust laws."

It also suggested taxation of "war millionaires."

The convention indorsed the Americanization bills introduced in congress by Representative Upshaw, Democrat Georgia, which would require publication in parallel columns of an English translation of all newspaper articles and publications printed in a foreign language and forbid "hyphenated" names by making it unlawful to use the name of any other nation before that of America in combination of words.

Another resolution "deplored the attitude" of the federal farm loan board towards the National Union of Farm Loan Associations and requested them to "desist in their opposition."

The farmers held a round table discussion with members of congress tonight at which they discussed the proposed grain and cotton exchanges. The convention plans to end its session tomorrow.

Washington, April 21.—Delegates to the National Farmers union convention here were received on the south lawn at the White House today by President Harding who promised to give "serious consideration" to their suggestion that a conference of representatives of labor, capital, the basic industries and the railway executives be called to consider means for reducing freight rates. The president said the suggestion was deserving of sincere thought.

The delegates were accompanied to the White House by several senators and representatives and Senators

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